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May 2, 2011



Don Burgess
Board of County Commissioners Sumter County Florida
7375 Powell Road, Suite 200
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Dear Don,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me with your concerns regarding immigration. As you may know, Ronald Reagan once said that "A nation without borders is not a nation." That is one of the reasons why fixing our broken immigration system remains one of the most important issues before our Congress.

As a law enforcement officer with over 38 years of experience, the last 10 as Sheriff of Hernando County, I have dealt with the effects of illegal immigration firsthand. I have always supported programs like E-Verify, which allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States. E-Verify is a fast, free and easy to use program that asks an employer to enter a Social Security number into an online database. If the name and Social Security number provided do not match up, then one of two things has happened: either there is a mistake in the data entry, or the person is not who they allege to be. It is worth noting that the error rate is less than one percent.

By using E-Verify to determine the employment eligibility of their employees, companies become part of the solution in addressing this problem. From a law enforcement standpoint, this program is the best way employers can ensure that they are employing a legal workforce. I actually used this program myself, when hiring employees for the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. I also recommended it to other employers throughout the community and have heard stories from business owners who identified illegal immigrations through E-Verify.

Unfortunately, if we as a nation allow our borders to remain porous and open, true immigration reform will be impossible to enforce. In the interest of national security, strengthening America's borders should be our top priority. By rewarding those who break this nation's laws, we punish those who take the proper steps to enter this great nation legally.

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Finally, we need to ensure that individuals who have already entered the country illegally do not receive de-facto amnesty by receiving benefits afforded to citizens and lawful residents.

Rewarding those who violate our nation's laws is an insult to the millions of hard working Americans who pay into our Social Security system. With Florida's 5th Congressional District home to well over a quarter of a million Social Security recipients, many of whom live on a fixed income, it is important to remember that these proud Americans spent their lives working hard, playing by the rules and saving for a stable retirement. That is why I will not allow illegal immigrants to raid the Social Security Trust Fund and rob Americans, especially seniors, of the funds they earned and deserve.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding your concerns about immigration. In the future, I invite you to visit my website at <http://www.nugent.house.gov>. There, you can track specific pieces of legislation and sign up for my newsletter, the SITREP. Modeled after the "situation reports" I used in the military and as Sheriff, the SITREP is a "just-the-facts" update I send you about everything that's going on in Congress each week.

Sincerely,



Rich Nugent
Member of Congress